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TOXIC MATERIALS
JUDICIARY
REVENUE AND TAXATION

July 10, 2007

Douglas R. Failing, District Director Department of Transportation, District 7 100 South Main Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Doug,

The purpose of this letter is to request your help in resolving a traffic safety issue at the Ventura Boulevard offramp from the northbound 405 freeway. The issue, brought to my attention by the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, is this: The offramp was formerly striped for three lanes (left turn, left or straight, and right turn). Now it is striped for two lanes. The right-hand lane is wider than the left, and apparently drivers are creating an ad hoc third lane without the benefit of striping. Cars are thus jockeying for position in the right-hand lane, with some trying to turn right, and some trying to go straight or left. The Neighborhood Council has asked that this safety issue be addressed by re-striping to restore three lanes.

From what I understand, there may be a question as to whether trucks exiting the freeway at this location could make a right turn safely if three lanes were restored. It should be noted that a right turn would put trucks into a residential neighborhood; by going straight ahead or left trucks could access commercial establishments along Sepulveda and on Ventura Blvd.

While I do not presume to know what the best solution is to this situation, the status quo is cause for concern. Ellen Isaacs of my office informs me that Deborah Robertson is aware of this problem, as well as Frank Quon, of your Operations Division.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance in resolving this issue. Thank you -

Sincerely,

Mike Feuer

Assemblymember, 42nd District

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CC: Craig Buck, Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council Richard Close, Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce

